CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES AGAINST THE USE OR THREAT OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

I. Introduction

1. At its 606th plenary meeting on 21 January 1992 the Conference on Disarmament decided to re-establish, for the duration of its 1992 session, an Ad Hoc Committee to continue to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. It further decided that the Ad Hoc Committee would report to the Conference on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1992 annual session (CD/1121).

II. Organization of work

2. At its 613th plenary meeting on 20 February 1992, the Conference on Disarmament appointed Ambassador Sirous Nasseri of the Islamic Republic of Iran as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. V. Bogomolov, Political Affairs Officer, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, served as Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee.

3. The Ad Hoc Committee held three meetings between 22 June and 3 August 1992.

4. In addition to the documents of the previous sessions related to this item, the following working paper was submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee by France at this annual session: CD/SA/WP.14 dated 3 August 1992 entitled "Basic elements for a legally binding agreement on negative security assurances".

III. Substantive work

5. At the beginning of the annual session, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee conducted informal consultations with the delegations and the Group coordinators to determine the best way to address the item entitled "Effective

International Arrangements to Assure Non-nuclear-weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons" this year, particularly in light of the Conference's focus on concluding the Chemical Weapons Convention. These consultations revealed that all delegations, including those of the nuclear weapon States, continued to attach importance to the agenda item and were ready to engage in substantive discussions on the issue.

6. During the formal meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee, various groups and individual delegations reaffirmed or further elaborated their respective positions, the detailed descriptions of which can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee, related Conference documents and working papers, and Plenary records.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Ad Hoc Committee reaffirmed that non-nuclear-weapon States should be effectively assured by the nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons pending effective measures of nuclear disarmament. Work on the substance of the effective arrangements and discussion on some aspects and elements of a solution, together with the series of informal consultations by the Chairman, revealed that specific difficulties relating to differing perceptions of security interests of nuclear-weapon States and non-nuclear weapon States persisted and that the complex nature of the issues involved continued to prevent agreement on a 'common formula'. The formal debates and informal consultations demonstrated the readiness of delegations to continue the search for a common approach on the substance of Negative Security Assurances.

8. Against this background the Conference on Disarmament continued to recognize the importance of the question of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and felt that there was a need to take a fresh look at this question, in light of recent transformations in the international political climate and other positive developments in order to achieve forward movement in this extremely important area so as to enable the Ad Hoc Committee to fulfil its mandate as soon as possible.

9. Accordingly there was agreement on the recommendation that the Ad Hoc Committee should be re-established at the beginning of the 1993 session.